









ing, and redemption; the awful responsibilities and eternal destinies of humanity; his hatred of wrong and tyranny, and his stern sense of justice, which led him to impose upon the African slave-trader the terrible penalty of the Moslem code.

But that brave old generation passed away. The civil contentions in the mother country drove across the seas multitudes of restless adventurers and speculators. The Indian was unsettled and demoralized the people. Habits of luxury and the greed of gain took the place of the severe self-denial and rigid virtues of the fathers. Hence we are not surprised to find that Josephy, in his second visit to New England, some twenty-five years after his first, speaks of the great increase of servants and negroes. In 1680, Governor Bradstreet, in answer to the inquiries of His Majesty's Privy Council, states, that, two years before, a vessel from "Madagascar" brought into the Colony twenty-four and fifty negroes, mostly women and children, who were sold, at a loss to the owner of the vessel. "Now and then," he continues, "two or three negroes are brought from Barbadoes and other of His Majesty's plantations, and sold for twenty pounds a-piece, so that there may be within the Government about one hundred or one hundred and twenty, and it may be as many Scots brought hither and sold for servants, in the time of the war with Scotland, and about half as many Irish."

The owning of a black or white slave or servant at this period was regarded as an evidence of dignity and respectability, and hence magistrates and clergymen winked at the violation of the law, by the mercenary traders, and supplied themselves without scruple. Indian slaves were common, and are named in old wills, deeds, and inventories, with horses, cows, and household furniture. As early as the year 1649, we find Wm. Hilton, of Newbury, "sells to George Carr, for one quarter part of a vessel, James, my Indian, with all the interest I have in him, to be his servant forever." Some were taken in the Narraganset war, and other Indian wars; others were brought from South Carolina and the Spanish Main. It is an instructive fact, as illustrating the retributive dealings of Providence, that the direct affliction of the Massachusetts Colony—the witchcraft report of 1692—originated with the Indian Tituba, a slave in the family of the minister of Danvers.

In the year 1693, the inhabitants of Newbury were greatly excited by the arrest of a Jerseyman who had been engaged in enticing Indians and negroes to leave their masters. He was charged, before the court with saying that "the English should be cut off, and the negroes set free." James, a negro slave, and Joseph, an Indian, were arrested with him. Their design was reported to be to seize a vessel in the port, and escape to Canada, and join the French, and return and lay waste and plunder their masters. They were to come back with five hundred Indians and three hundred Canadians; and the place of crossing the Merrimack river, and of the first encampment on the other side, were even said to be fixed upon. When we consider that there could not have been more than a score of slaves in the settlement, the excitement into which the inhabitants were thrown, by this absurd rumor of conspiracy, seems very unlike that of a convocation of small planters in a backwoods settlement in South Carolina, on finding an Anti-Slavery newspaper in their weekly mail-bag.

In 1709, Colonel Saltstall, of Haverhill, had several negroes, and among them a high-spirited girl, who, for some alleged misdemeanor, was severely chastised. The slave resolved upon revenge for her injury, and soon found the means of obtaining it. The Colonel had on hand, for service in the Indian war then raging, a considerable store of gunpowder. This she placed under the room in which her master and mistress slept, laid a long train, and dropped a coal on it. She had barely time to escape to the farm house, before the explosion took place, shattering the stately mansion into fragments. Saltstall and his wife were carried on their bed a considerable distance, happily escaping serious injury. Some soldiers stationed in the house were scattered in all directions, but no lives were lost. The Colonel, on recovering from the effects of his sudden overturn, hastened to the farm-house, and found his servants all up, save the author of the mischief, who was snuggled in bed, and apparently in a quiet sleep.

In 1701, an attempt was made in the General Court of Massachusetts to prevent the increase of slaves. Judge Sewall soon after published a pamphlet against slavery, but as it seems with little effect. Boston merchants and ship owners became to a considerable extent involved in the slave trade. Distilleries established in that place and in Rhode Island furnished rum for the African market. The slaves were usually taken to the West Indies, although occasionally part of a cargo found its way to New England, where the wholesome old laws against man-stealing had become a dead letter on the statute book.

In 1767, a bill was brought before the Legislature of Massachusetts to prevent "the unwarrantable and unnatural custom of enslaving mankind." The Council of Governor Bernard sent it back to the House greatly changed and curtailed, and it was lost by the disagreement of the two branches. Governor Bernard threw his influence on the side of slavery. In 1774, a bill prohibiting the traffic in slaves passed both Houses, but Governor Hutchinson withheld his assent, and dismissed the Legislature. The colored men sent a delegation of their own to the Governor to solicit his consent to the bill, but he told them his instructions forbade him. A similar committee waiting upon General Gage received the same answer.

In the year 1770, a servant of Richard Lechmere of Cambridge, stimulated by the general discussion of the slavery question, and by the advice of some of the zealous advocates of emancipation, brought an action against his master for detaining him in bondage. The suit was decided in his favor two years before the similar decision in the case of Somerset in England. The funds necessary for carrying on this suit were raised among the blacks themselves. Other suits followed in various parts of the Province, and the result was in every instance the freedom of the plaintiff. In 1773, Cusack Hendrick sold his master, one Greenbush, of Newburyport, for damages, laid at fifty pounds, for holding him as a slave. The jury awarded him his freedom and eighteen pounds.

According to Dr. Belknap, whose answers to the queries on the subject, propounded by Judge Tucker of Virginia, have furnished us with many of the facts above stated, the principal grounds upon which the counsel of the masters depended were that the negroes were purchased in open market, and included in the bills of sale like other property—that slavery was sanctioned by usage—and, finally, that the laws of the Province recognized its existence by making masters liable for the maintenance of their slaves or servants.

On the part of the blacks, the law and usage of the mother country, confirmed by the Great Charter, that no man can be deprived of his liberty but by the judgment of his peers, was effectively pleaded. The early laws of the Province prohibited slavery, and no subsequent legislation had sanctioned it; for although the laws did recognize its existence, they did so only to mitigate and modify an admitted evil.

The present State Constitution was established in 1780. The first article of the Bill of Rights prohibited slavery by affirming the foundation truth of our Republic, that "all men are born free and equal." The Supreme Court decided in 1783 that no man could hold another as property without a direct violation of that article.

In 1788, three free black citizens of Boston were kidnapped and sold into slavery in one of the French Islands. An intense excitement followed. Governor Hancock took efficient measures for reclaiming the unfortunate men. The clergy of Boston petitioned the Legislature for a total prohibition of the foreign slave trade. The Society of Friends, and the blacks generally, presented similar petitions, and the same year an act

was passed prohibiting the slave trade and granting relief to persons kidnapped or decoyed out of the Commonwealth. The fear of a burden to the State from the influx of negroes from abroad led the Legislature in connection with this law to prevent those who were not citizens of the State, or of other States, from gaining a residence.

One of the first, and for many years the only, arrest of a fugitive slave in Massachusetts under the law of 1793 took place in Boston after the passage of the law. It is the case to which President Quincy alludes in his late letter against the Fugitive Slave Law. The populace at the trial aided the slave to escape, and nothing farther was done about it.

The arrest of George Latimer as a slave in Boston, and his illegal confinement in jail, in 1842, led to the passage of the law of 1843, for the "protection of personal liberty," prohibiting State officers from arresting or detaining persons claimed as slaves, and the use of the jails of the Commonwealth for their confinement. This law was strictly in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Judiciary in the case of Prigg vs. the State of Pennsylvania, that the reclaiming of fugitives was a matter exclusively belonging to the General Government, yet that the State officials might, if they saw fit, carry into effect the law of Congress on the subject, "unless prohibited by State legislation."

It will be seen by the facts we have added, that slavery in Massachusetts never had a legal existence. The crime of the judiciary of the Puritan State has never been sullied by the admission of its detestable claims. It crept into the Commonwealth like other evils and vices, but never succeeded in clothing itself with the sanction and authority of law. It stood only upon its own execrable foundation of robbery and wrong.

With a history like this to look back upon, is it strange that the people of Massachusetts, at the present day, are unwilling to see their time-honored defenses of personal freedom, the good old safeguards of Saxon liberty, over-ridden and swept away after the summary fashion of "the Fugitive Slave bill" that they should loathe and scorn the task which that bill imposes upon them, of aiding professional slave-hunters in seizing, fettering, and consigning to bondage, men and women accused only of that which commends them to esteem and sympathy, love of liberty and hatred of slavery? that they cannot at once adjust themselves to "constitutional duties" which, in South Carolina and Georgia, are reserved for trained blood-hounds? Surely, in view of what Massachusetts has been, and her strong bias in favor of human freedom, derived from her great-hearted founders, it is to be hoped that the Executive and Cabinet at Washington will grant her some little respite, some space for turning, some opportunity for "conquering her prejudices," before letting loose the dogs of war upon her. Let them give her time, and treat with forbearance her hesitation, qualms of conscience, and wounded pride. Her people, indeed, are awkward in the work of slave-catching, and it would seem, rendered but indifferent service in the late hunt in Boston. Whether they would do better under the surveillance of "the army and navy of the United States," is a question which we leave with the President and his Secretary of State. General Putnam once undertook to drill a company of Quakers, and instructed them, by force of arms, in the art and mystery of fighting; but not a single pair of dark-colored breeches moved at his "forward march!" not a broad brow wheeled at his word of command, no hand unclosed to receive a proffered musket. Patriotic ardor, hard swearing, and prick of bayonet, had no effect upon these unpracticable raw recruits; and the stout General gave them up in despair. We are inclined to believe that any attempt on the part of the Commander-in-Chief of our army and navy to convert the good people of Massachusetts into expert slave-catchers, under the discipline of West Point and Norfolk, would prove as idle an experiment as that of General Putnam upon the Quakers.

ALTON LOCKE, Tailor and Poet. An Autobiography. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Alton Locke, a Chartist, a Tailor, and a Poet, has given us in this book an insight into the life of a working man in England. The exhibition is at once powerful and painful—the offspring of genius, developed in the midst of bitter privations, and fired also by the sense of grievous wrongs. The object of the book is to promote the Emancipation of Labor, and wherever read must awaken profound sympathy with the laboring classes.

For sale by Frank Taylor, Pennsylvania avenue, Washington.

EVERYMAN AT DONALDSON MANOR: the Christmas Guest. By Maria J. Macintosh. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farham, Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C.

The author of "Charmers and Counter Charmers" will always be sure of admirers. She has good taste, good sense and good morals, and tells a story in a very charming way. "Evenings at Donaldson Manor" is a collection of nine delightful stories, with handsome engravings, bound in beautiful style, as a Christmas present.

THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI. This Legislature, according to proclamation, convened on the 10th. Governor Quitman sent in his message, recommending that the Legislature demand the line of 36° 30' to the Pacific ocean, or such amendments of the Constitution as would prevent further encroachments by the non-slaveholding States. And for himself, he avowed his belief in the policy of secession.

The latest news from the Legislature is to the effect that nothing had been agreed upon by both branches, and there was a great division of opinion. General Fiske addressed the public in the State House on the 26th, in a strong Union speech, which was enthusiastically received.

MOSES A. CARTLAND. Mr. Tuck having declined a renomination for Congress in the first Congressional district, New Hampshire, Moses A. Cartland has been nominated in his place.

Mr. Tuck has proved himself a most estimable and faithful Representative. Mr. Cartland is a man thorough in all good principles, of fine abilities, and will be a worthy successor.

DEATH OF COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON. The telegraph announces the death, which has been for some time expected, of Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky. He died at his residence in Scott county, of that State, on the morning of Tuesday, the 27th. He was the sixtieth year of age, and had served his country faithfully, in various civil and military capacities, during the greater part of his life.

He was born in the year 1785, became a member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1807, and in 1812 raised a regiment to fight the combined English and Indian forces in the Northwest. He served as a colonel under General Harrison during the whole campaign, with distinguished bravery, and at the battle of the Thames, in particular, achieved a brilliant reputation by his conquest and destruction of the noted chief Tecumseh, who was probably killed by his hand. Colonel Johnson never asserted that as a fact, though the inference was unavoidable from the description he gave of the positions of the various parties during the battle, that the Indian was killed by him. He was too modest to claim positively an honor which was disputed by others; but the prevailing opinion of the country, we believe, is that his title to it was just.

It is a pleasant book for these long winter evenings.

LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW. October, 1850. New York: Leonard Scott & Co. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington.

The leading article is a review of Ticknor's History of Spanish Literature. The reviewer speaks in high terms of the industry, research, fidelity, and good judgment, displayed in this work, and compliments the zeal of American authors to discharge the debt due to Spain, her first discoverer.

An article on "The Church and Education in Wales" is chiefly local in its interest.

Better, more delightful reading cannot be found than the acute, half-playful, brilliant article on "Forms of Salvation," as indicative of national characteristics.

Numerous works on "Siberia and California" afford some political economist an opportunity of discussing the question of the influence of the wealth of the newly discovered mines on trade and currency.

"The Last Days of Louis Philippe," a review of a recent French work, containing an account of a visit to the dethroned monarch, is calculated to soften the severity of even a republican's judgment.

There are several other articles, which we have not had time to read.

FREE PERSONS OF COLOR. "The condition of the free people of color in the United States is becoming very critical. They now constitute the only source of excitement between the States of the Union. It is almost the only extraneous substance that irritates the social system of America, and it will be in some way extirpated or thrown off, rather than jeopard the health of the whole system. The extreme class among under the Fugitive Slave Law have given them a temporary association, and have excited for them a temporary sympathy. But the frequent conflicts which have occurred between the free people of color and the reckless mobs of the cities show that there is some rivalry of interest, or some inability to recognize which separates the two races, and which cannot be reconciled. The protracted and increasing agitation has produced a result which it behooves peculiar friends of the free people of color to regard."—Washington Republic.

We lay no claim to being one of the "peculiar friends" or champions of the free people of color; but when we see gross injustice done or meditated towards any class of our fellow-beings, we shall take the liberty to speak of it with all plainness. The free people of color are human beings, and as such, entitled to justice and kind consideration at our hands. It is safe, we know, to abuse them, unpopular to say a good word in their behalf. They are few, scattered, proscribed, poor, unfortunate, of limited education, without position or influence. They may be insulted with impunity; trampled upon without danger. Polite society brands them as outcasts, the Church assigns them the meanest seats, politicians despise, and the mob abuses them. But, in all these facts, the truly magnanimous man finds the strongest reasons for scrupulously respecting and promptly defending their rights. Their unfortunate condition appeals without ceasing to every honorable and humane instinct. How can a generous man indulge in taunts or cruel reflections against a people, in whom resentment against the infliction of a wrong is deemed little better than a crime? The Republic says that they "constitute the only source of excitement between the States of this Union"—"almost the only extraneous substance that irritates the social system of America." Everybody knows this is not true. It is not the free people of color, but the slaves, that give occasion for the excitement and agitation and discord prevalent among us. It is precisely because the labor institutions of the two sections of the country differ radically, that there is a want of entire sympathy between them. The great evil, the "extraneous substance" that irritates the social system, is Slavery; the free people of color are merely incidental—they never have been, but for Slavery. They are quiet, inoffensive, unaggressive. It is Slavery, which, in its aim at universal empire, has not only irritated, but shaken to its centre our whole social and political fabric. The Republic should blush for its small attempt to make the poor, unfortunate free people of color the scapegoat for the sins of the slave system. Remove them, and what have you accomplished for the peace of the country? Slavery will still exist in undiminished power, with increased security; still voracious in its ambition, despotic in its rule, inselish of subordination, restive, ill-mannered, selfish, exasperating.

But we have no right to threaten them with extinction, or compulsory removal. They are Americans, colored though they be—here by no act of their own—here in the order of God's Providence; born on the soil, natives in common with us of this land of freedom. It is inhuman to talk of forcing them from their homes. To do so would stamp them as tyrants, willing to gratify our prejudices at the sacrifice of all justice, all humanity.

We have not overlooked the late proposition in the Virginia Convention to clothe the Legislature with power to banish the free people of color. Suppose the power conferred, it surely would not be used. We do not believe that a majority of the People of Virginia are so dead to the voice of Justice, as to authorize the expulsion of a whole people, born raised among them, many of them useful and industrious, the majority strongly attached by the tenderest ties of affection to their native soil, all guiltless of crime. "Never!"

A proposition too has received countenance in the Convention of Indiana, contemplating the exclusion of colored people from that State. If this be one of the projects of Democratic reform, God help the Democracy!—It is only another name for inhumanity. The colored race is here, among us, constituting one-seventh of our population. It was brought here, not by its own volition, but by the will of the white man, actuated by a grossly selfish principle. It will not do now for any portion of the white population to attempt to throw off responsibility in the matter, to evade its share of the inconveniences growing out of the presence of such a race. It would be mean and cowardly. If one State may legislate for the exclusion of free people of color, all may so legislate—and then what would be the condition of those unfortunate people? No home, no fireside; no resting place, but the grave; the acquisition of property made unlawful, a legal settlement everywhere denied them, their existence itself regarded as a crime!

The Republic, to show that there is some rivalry of interests, or some indelible prejudice which separates the two races, refers to the conflicts that have occurred between them and the reckless mobs of the cities. It might as well argue from the frequency of mobs against anti-slavery men, some rivalry of interests or indelible prejudice of race between them and their fellow-citizens. Colored people have not been so often mobbed as the white advocates of their rights. In Philadelphia there have been more frequent conflicts between the Natives and the Irish than between the whites and the blacks. Of late years, indeed, popular prejudice against them has been somewhat mitigated. In some of the States their rights have been fully recognized; in others, some of the privations under which they have labored, have been removed; and a growing disposition has been manifested generally among the more intelligent classes of whites, to extend to them the benefits of education. In this city, for example, they are for the most part well treated; they have several churches and excellent schools, and are permitted to enjoy, unrestricted, the rights secured to them by law. We believe that evidences of improvement are observable among them everywhere. Instead of laboring to revive and encourage prejudice against them, instead of countenancing or excusing visionary schemes for their compulsory banishment, common sense and common humanity dictate that we should do whatever lies in our power, to aid them in the work of self-improvement. Even those

who denounce their presence as a nuisance, can best abate that "nuisance" by favoring every project for bettering their condition and character.

BOTH EQUALLY GUILTY. "It was the Whig party which, six years ago, sought an association with the Abolitionists, and attempted to obtain their votes for their Presidential candidate. Unfortunately, they appealed to them as a third party whose views were said to be so much like those of the Whigs, that it was unnecessary for the Abolitionists to set up a candidate of their own."—Washington Union.

"This is entirely false, and there is no need of mincing words about it; for the Union knows it to be false. The Abolitionists have always sought and generally effected Democratic alliances to defeat the Whigs. The Abolition vote in New York defeated HENRY CLAY in 1844. "The coalition of Abolitionists and Democrats in New York has just defeated all the Whig State tickets, with the exception of the Governor."—Washington Republic.

The Union is correct—the Republic only partially so.

It is a fact that the Whig party in 1844 did seek the alliance of Abolitionists to help them elect Mr. Clay. Its leading papers constantly represented that its principles and policy were much more favorable than those of the Democracy to the end the Abolitionists had in view. We know this to be a fact, because we wrote a great many columns contesting this very position.

In 1845, too, the same game was played—and Mr. Webster particularly distinguished himself by his appeals to Liberty men to unite with the Whigs, whom he styled the true Liberty party. Nor is it true that the Abolitionists have always "sought and effected Democratic alliances to defeat the Whigs." Up to the year 1848, they neither sought nor effected alliances with any party, and steadfastly favored the policy of independent Conventions and nominations. That year, they sought and effected, not an alliance with the Democratic party to defeat the Whigs, but an alliance between independent men of all parties opposed to the extension of slavery, the result of which was the defeat of the Democratic candidate.

Since then, both parties at the North have from time to time acted in concert with them, according to circumstances. We do not know that their votes secured the triumph of the whole Democratic State ticket in New York, except the candidate for Governor; but there is no doubt that they secured the election of Washington Hunt—and it is notorious that in Massachusetts the Whig party has been overthrown by the Free-Soilers and the Democrats.

The truth is, the Republic writes for Southern Whigs, and the Union for Southern Democrats, and the object of each is to strengthen its own party in the South, by representing the opposite party as being too friendly to Abolitionists or Free-Soilers, in other words, too devoted to the cause of Human Freedom.

This is the estimate placed upon Liberty by the President's organ, and the Democratic organ at Washington—this, their mode of electioneering.

MR. CRITTENDEN AND THE MARSHAL OF BOSTON. Documents and affidavits concerning the conduct of the United States Marshal and other officers in the case of William and Ellen Crafts, having been transmitted to the President, he submitted them to Mr. Crittenden, Attorney General, who, after a careful examination, says: "Having perused them with care, and certainly without any bias or prepossession in favor of the marshal or his deputy, I must say that, though I can see no evidence of any particular activity and energy on their part, it seems to me that they do not sufficiently appear any cause for the censure of their conduct, or the removal of the marshal from office."

He thinks a more commendable activity might have been manifested by them, but says that they acted in consultation with Mr. Hughes, the agent, who states that he has no ground of complaint against them.

Mr. Attorney General, in the closing paragraph of his communication to the President, makes an indecorous display of his own feelings: "If I could have discovered any satisfactory evidence of the neglect or evasion of duty by these officers in this case, it would have been no less to me than a relief, as it would have been to my judgment, to have recommended their instant dismissal from the public service."

A MISREPRESENTATION. "But says the Doctor, it is the duty of the President to see this law executed, because he signed it."—Liberty Party Paper.

"The Doctor" did not say anything like it. What he did say was this: "The duty of the President of the United States," under the Constitution, is "to see that the laws be faithfully executed." As Mr. Fillmore has sanctioned this Fugitive Law by his signature, he will of course feel bound to enforce it, by the means at his disposal, which may be necessary."

I was simply stating what Mr. Fillmore's course would be, not what it ought to be. If he believe any law to be constitutional and right, he ought to see that it be executed. If he do not so believe, he ought to say so to Congress, and recommend its repeal.

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from the Vice Presidency, he has served, we believe, in the Kentucky Legislature, but of that we are not certain.

Col. Johnson was not a man of sparkling or original abilities, nor of great cultivation of mind; but his generosity was unbounded, and his instincts and disposition noble. He made many friends by his urbane deportment and kindly nature, and his death will be deplored by a large circle of admirers.

VALUATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.—According to an abstract of the assessors' returns in Massachusetts, 800 miles of railway since 1840 have been finished in the State, displacing a great many stage lines. The number of horses has increased in the same time from 6,000 to 7,400.

The produce of wheat has declined from 101,178 bushels to 28,487; while that of Indian corn has increased from 1,775,073 to 2,395,856.

Cotton and woolen spindles have doubled, and distilleries decreased 78 to 43.

The houses in Massachusetts numbered in 1840 96,550, in 1850 134,041. At both periods, the number of persons to a house was nearly the same, 7½.

LETTER FROM LONDON.

LONDON, November 8, 1850.

To the Editor of the National Era:

The agitation in reference to the recent measures of the Pope has been increasing throughout the past week, and is now increasing. Clergymen have everywhere preached in reference to them, and laymen have written about them, until there is quite an excitement raised.

Tuesday the 5th was the anniversary of "Guido Faucos" Gunpowder Plot, and I was much amused to see with what zeal the younger portion of the community kept it up. It is a custom on that day for the boys to carry about the streets all manner of grotesque images representing the unfortunate Guy Faucos, and to hold out their caps for premiums to all who venture to look at the figures. But this anniversary they were not content with showing up poor Faucos and his confederates, but carried about ridiculous effigies of Cardinal Wiseman in his red cap and Dr. Ullathorne, which were received by the people with cries and groans.

Several houses near the St. George Cathedral were so much afraid of a popular outbreak that they hung out inscriptions over their doors and windows, testifying their loyalty to the Queen, and their abhorrence of the Pope and the Catholic religion. Some of the effigies were well executed—one in particular, which was drawn about the streets all day by two horses, and on which money had been spent with a liberal hand.

The churches are in the habit of holding services on that day, and this year all over the country the clergymen preached sermons on Popery and its recent insolent manifestations.

But the most remarkable occurrence of the week, which has reference to this agitation, is a letter which the Premier, Lord John Russell, has addressed to the Bishop of Durham. In the course of it he avows his conviction that the Pope's conduct in parceling the Kingdom out to his new-made Bishops, and giving his commands without the slightest reference to the existing Church of England, which is striking at the Queen's supremacy, is an insult to this Government and her Majesty. Still he would advise no harsh measures—the laws shall be closely examined, and if they have been or are trespassed upon in the least, the propriety of action shall be duly considered.

To wind up with, he administers a cutting rebuke to those members of the church, who of late have manifested decided symptoms of a sympathy for Rome, in reviving many of her mummeries, and trusts that the church may become pure in this respect herself before much is done to defend her from enemies without.

This letter has excited great attention, and commended for the Premier a good deal of applause, which no one can deny he has not been overfed with of late.

The Times has come out in support of Cobden's plan of public schools, and the friends of education feel encouraged, for its influence over the Kingdom is very powerful.

It is very strange that intelligent dissenters will oppose a system of national education, but as yet the majority of them are ranged against the reform. They contend that the Church of England will contrive to make something from it, but it is not possible, for the plan only contemplates secular education. The opponents of the scheme deny that the Government has a right to tax the property of the people to support these schools, and say that if they admit it, they also admit the right of the State to tax for the support of its churches. But the two questions are entirely unlike, inasmuch as all men are agreed upon the mere question of secular education for children, while they are disagreed on religion. But in the ranks of opposition are to be found such men as Edmund Miall, Joseph Sturge, and other noble men, and it moves on slowly against such an opposition. Mr. Cobden declares, however, that he will agitate, and make it a great national question; and if he does so, he cannot fail to be successful. His right-hand man in the great Corn Law agitation, John Bright is not heartily in favor of the plan, as he imagines voluntarism sufficient to elevate England, but he will not oppose it.

A grand entertainment was given by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House to his friends on Wednesday evening. There was a brilliant gathering, and among others the American Minister, Mr. Lawrence. He spoke twice during the evening, and very happily, too, for a man who makes no professions as an orator. The Industrial Exhibition was well drunk and toasted by the company.

During the past week, Henry Box Brown has been in Liverpool, and his papers are chronicle his arrival with an account of his wonderful escape from slavery.

The general feeling here in reference to the Fugitive Slave Bill is one of horror and disgust. The friends of Progress and the friends of the Conservatives are growing over to the cause of the Republicanism cannot insure the liberties of a monarchial form of Government.

The only surviving son of Mr. Hallam, the distinguished author of the "Middle Ages" died last week at Rome, and his family in London have been thrown into the deepest distress. He was talented, and promised to become distinguished in literature.

The new mayor affair is not yet settled in France, as he will not accept his appointment to Nantes.

General Changarnier has issued a proclamation to his troops to abstain from every kind of demonstration, and to utter no cries while under arms. This has caused quite an excitement, and many have construed it into disrespect for the Emperor; but it is said that the general subsequently had an interview with him, during which he told Louis Napoleon that he intended no disrespect for him in the act.

General Lalitte is elected in "dne Nord" to a seat in the Assembly. The Socialists tried to prevent his election by abstaining from the polls, but were not successful. He needed 36,000 votes to secure his election, and received over 50,000.

General Carrellet has been appointed to the command of the first military division in Paris, in the room of Neumayer.

General Carrellet was elected during the past week to Paris, as well as Marshal Jerome Bonaparte. The father of the French Ambassador at the Court of St. James died a few days since in France, and has left a very large property to his son.

The Journal "La Reforme" is to appear day after to-morrow, and will, it is said, be backed by sixty or more representatives.

The political aspect of affairs on the Continent has materially changed during the past week. It is now no so much danger of war as was anticipated. Austria has, in the name of the Federation, occupied Hesse at last. Her troops are quartered in Hesse, with 2,000 to 3,000 Prussian troops are in Cassel. This looks warlike, and M. von Radowicz, the Prussian Minister, has just been in the name of the Prussian army in the second. Count de Brandebourg occupies his place pro tem, though he is so ill that he is not capable to sustain its duties. The result of this change is that Prussia has succumbed, and will relinquish her belligerence—at least for the present.

On the 31 instant, an Austrian officer arrived at Kiel, with despatches from the Brandeburg to the Stadtholder, prohibiting the continuance of war in Schleswig Holstein. So, instead of the

Electorate, all Europe is now turning its attention towards Schleswig Holstein.

Austria will oblige the two parties to stop fighting. It is as yet doubtful whether the Holsteiners will obey, and if not, unless they are backed by Prussia, they can do nothing against a power like that of Austria.

Now, while the lovers of peace have long been anxiously wishing to see the foolish war in Holstein finished, and the quarrel amicably adjusted, yet they cannot very well wish such a forced peace. If an Austrian army, with hordes of Russians at their back, are to step in between two belligerent parties, at will, and threaten to cut their throats if they do not stop fighting, things have come to a dangerous pass. It is an unpleasant precedent to be established in Europe.

There can be no doubt but that Prussia has played anything but an honest, straight-forward course in this Schleswig Holstein affair; and yet circumstances do not warrant such a despotism interference on the part of Austria.

It may be that Prussia will not remain quiet. She would have acted the wise part, if, instead of waiting until Austria and Russia wanted to close the war in Holstein, she had, by an honorable policy, herself have peaceably brought the dispute to a close.

Contestants have recently been published in the Continental papers, which show pretty conclusively why Austria and Prussia have concluded not to fight. The simple fact is, that they cannot afford it. The financial condition of both Governments is chaotic. Prussia keeps up a show of a great strength, but it is only show, while Austria is almost bankrupt. Her expenses during the last year were over a hundred million of dollars, while her present state of indebtedness amounts to five hundred millions. Neither Government can afford to fight, though circumstances may yet cause them to do so, which they have not the resources to pay for.

Elisur Burritt has an address to the German People in the Times of to-day, dated at Hamburg, and written, I presume, upon the eve of his return to England. Some portions of it have crossed the Atlantic, and are being translated into a column to it, hardly treating the author of it with common decency.

The weather in England, which generally at this season of the year is dimly wet and foggy, is brighter, and is only show, while Austria is almost bankrupt. Her expenses during the last year were over a hundred million of dollars, while her present state of indebtedness amounts to five hundred millions. Neither Government can afford to fight, though circumstances may yet cause them to do so, which they have not the resources to pay for.

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, November 22, 1850.

To the Editor of the National Era:



